

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

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R 161345 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 931

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR TZ

SUBJ: BABU ACCUSED AS MASTERMIND OF PLOT TO OVERTHROW

ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT

REF: ZANZIBAR 0139

### SUMMARY:

ZANZIBAR' S ATTORNEY GENERAL, WOLFGANG DOURADO, GAVE HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE ZANZIBAR PEOPLE' S COURT ON MAY 15, 1973 AND ACCUSED FORMER UNION MINISTER ABDULRAHMAN BABU OF MASTER-MINDING THE ABORTIVE APRIL 1972 ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO DOURADO, BABU BEGAN PLANNING THE COUP IN 1968, HELD NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH HIS FELLOW CONSPIRATORS DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS AND PLANNED TO ARRIVE IN ZANZIBAR ON APRIL 6, 1972 THE DAY BEFORE THE COUP. PLANS WENT AWRY WHEN BABU AND HIS COLLEAGUES DID NOT ARRIVE AS SCHEDULED. THE ZANZIBAR COUP GROUP PROCEEDED ON THEIR OWN AND ASSASSINATED THE LATE TANZANIAN FIRST VICE- PRESIDENT, ABEID KARUME ON APRIL 7, 1972. SENTENCING OF THE 9 DEFENDENTS WHO EARLIER PLEADED " GUILTY" WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 19, 1973. HEARINGS FOR THE REMAINING 54 WHO PLEADED " NOT GUILTY" AND THE 18 MAINLAND DETAINEES BEING TRIED IN ABSENTIA WILL BEGIN ON MAY 23, 1973.

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DURING A 90 MINUTE ADDRESS TO THE ZANZIBAR PEOPLE' S COURT ON MAY 15, 1973, OUTLINING HIS CASE AGAINST THE 9 PERSONS WHO

EARLIER PLEADED " GUILTY" TO CHARGES OF TREASON, THE 54 PERSONS WHO PLEADED " NOT GUILTY" AND THE 18 PERSONS DETAINED ON THE TANZANIAN MAINLAND WHO ARE BEING TRIED IN ABSENTIA, ZANZIBAR'S ATTORNEY GENERAL, WOLFGANG DOURADO, ACCUSED FORMER UNION MINISTER ABDULRAHMAN MOHAMMED BABU OF BEING THE MASTERMIND AND ARCH-INSTIGATOR OF THE PLOT TO OVERTHROW THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT IN APRIL 1972 WHICH ENDED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LATE TANZANIAN FIRST VICE- PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ZANZIBAR REVOLUTIONARY CONCIL, SHEIKH ABEID AMANI KARUME. THE ESSENCE OF THE ADDRESS WHICH WAS CARRIED IN FULL IN THE MAY 16, 1973 ISSUE OF THE " DAILY NEWS", WAS AS FOLLOWS:

THE PLOT BEGAN IN 1968 WHEN BABU ADVISED SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE UMMA PARTY THAT HE INTENDED TO OVERTHROW THE ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT. RECRUITMENTS FOR THE COUPE ATTEMPT BEGAN AT THAT TIME, A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE MAINLAND AND ZANZIBAR, AND VARIOUS MEETINGS WERE HELD BETWEEN BABU AND HIS FOLLOWERS DURING THE NEXT THREE AND ONE- HALF YEARS, CULMINATING IN A MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM ON APRIL 2, 1972 DURING WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COUP ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE ON APRIL 7, 1972. BABU WAS TO COME TO ZANZIBAR BY BOAT ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 6, 1972 AND REMAIN IN HIDING UNTIL THE COUP WAS LAUNCHED. ACCORDING TO DOURADO, WHO NOW AND THEN CITED TESTIMONY FROM VARIOUS PERSONS AMONG THE 9 WHO PLEADED GUILTY, THE PLOT WENT AWRY WHEN BABU AND OTHERS FROM THE MAINLAND FAILED TO APPEAR IN ZANZIBAR AS SCHEDULED. DOURADO SAID THAT BABU AND SEVERAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES DID, IN FACT, LEAVE DAR ES SALAAM BY FISHING BOAT ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 6, 1972 ALTHOUGH BABU CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE ONLY ON A FISHING EXPEDITION. NEVERTHELESS, BABU AND HIS GROUP NEVER ARRIVED IN ZANZIBAR AND THE IMPORTANT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE NIGHT OF APRIL 6, 1972 DURING WHICH ALL THE PLOTTERS WERE TO HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON THE FULL DETAILS OF THE PLOT AND ASSIGNED INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, NEVER TOOK PLACE. THE NUCLEUS OF THE ZANZIBAR GROUP FELT THEY WERE UNDER SUSPICION AND CONCLUDED THAT THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PROCEED WITH THE COUP ATTEMPT. MEMBERS OF THE ASSASSINATION

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TEAMS MET ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 7, 1972 AND DROVE IN THREE CARS TO CARRY OUT THEIR ASSIGNMENTS. ONE GROUP WAS TO ASSASSINATE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE AFRO- SHIRAZI PARTY ( ASP) YOUTH LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS AND THE OTHER TWO WERE TO ASSASSINATE KARUME WHO WAS KNOWN TO BE AT THE ASP HEADQUARTERS. NO ONE WAS FOUND AT THE YOUTH LEAGUE HEADQUARTERS SO ALL THREE GROUPS CONVERGED ON THE ASP HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY MACHINE-GUNNED KARUME.

FOLLOWING THE SHOOTING AND TRACKING DOWN OF THE ASSASSINS, NUMEROUS WEAPONS WERE FOUND AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF PORTRAITS OF BABU PRINTED ON SILK WITH THE SWAHILI CAPTION " AISHI BABU" (" LONG LIVE BABU") WERE FOUND IN THE HOME OF FORMER REVOLUTIONARY

COUNCIL MEMBER, KHAMIS ABDALLA AMEIR, ONE OF THE 54 WHO PLEADED  
" NOT GUILTY."

DOURADO SUMMARIZED THE CASES AGAINST THE 9 WHO PLEADED  
" GUILTY". NOTEWORTHY IS THE ALLEGED CONFESSION OF FORMER  
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER AHMED BADAWI QULLATEIN WHEREIN  
QULLATEIN SAYS HE WAS PERSUADED BY BABU TO JOIN THE GROUP  
BECAUSE IF HE DIDN' T HE WOULD BE UNDER SUSPICION ANYWAY  
( IN THE EVENT THE COUP FAILED) AS HE WAS A STAUNCH FOLLOWER  
OF THE UMMA PARTY. QUALLATEIN ALLEGEDLY STATED IN HIS CONFESSION  
THAT HAD THE COUP SUCCEEDED, BABU WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT  
AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED A POLICY OF " SCIENTIFIC  
SOCIALISM." FOLLOWING THE MITIGATION PLEAS BY THE 9 DEFENDENTS,  
THE COURT ANNOUNCED THAT SENTENCES WOULD BE PASSED ON MAY 19, 1973.

THE OTHER 54 DEFENDENTS HELD ON ZANZIBAR HEARD DOURADO' S  
ADDRESS VIA LOUD SPEAKER IN A SEPARATE ROOM ADJACENT TO THE  
COURT. MAY 23 HAS NOW BEEN FIXED AS THE HEARING DATE FOR THESE  
DEFENDENTS AND THE 18 OTHERS TO BE TRIED IN ABSENTIA.

COMMENT:

ACCORDING TO A CONSULATE SOURCE, SOVIET AND CHINESE  
COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS ATTENDED THE OPENING ADDRESS AND  
WERE QUITE UPSET BY THE ALLEGATION THAT BABU' S GROUP WOULD  
HAVE FOLLOWED A COURSE OF " SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" HAD THE COUP  
SUCCEEDED. THE EMPHASIS ON BABU' S ROLE POINTS OUT THAT  
ZANZIBAR HAS CLEARLY DECIDED TO RUN ITS OWN CASE WITHOUT  
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REGARD TO THE PREFERENCES OF THE MAINLAND TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT.  
GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL, AND ZANZIBAR' S REPUTATION  
FOR HANDLING OF ITS DETAINEES AND FOR ITS METHOD OF EXTRACTING  
CONFESSIONS, ZANZIBAR' S ATTORNEY GENERAL IS FACED WITH A DIFFICULT  
TASK IN ATTEMPTING TO PRESENT TO THE COURT AND TO THE PRESS A  
FAIR AND IMPARTIAL TRIAL, ONE WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTED BY AN  
OBJECTIVE PUBLIC ABROAD.  
ROGERS

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